GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PLANNING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1504
ANSWERED ON:01.08.2001
SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF N-E STATES AND SIKKIM
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Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

the details of progress made in the implementation of each of the 28 items included in the Agenda for Socio-Economic Development of North Eastern States and Sikkim announced by the Prime Minister on 22nd January,2000 at Shillong?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT, MINISTER OF STATE MINISTRIES OF PLANNING, STATISTICS & PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPA OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIVANCES (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE)

Details are annexed.

Annexure

Progress statement (as on 21.6.2001) in respect of items covered under Agenda for Socio Economic Development of North Eastern States and Sikkim announced by Prime Minister on 22nd January, 2000 at Shillong.
S.N Item Status

1. Provision of Rs. 500 crore for Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) for North East and Sikkim. Schemes for Rs. 877.1 crore were sanctioned till 31-3-2001 and amount disbursed was Rs. 296.01 crore. Special Secretary(Banking) took a Meeting with representatives of all State Governments on 7-6-2001 to discuss difficulties experience by the State Govermnents regarding RIDF and to work out steps to expedite sanctions/disbursements.

2. Provision of banking facilities at all border trading points within one year. 35 bank branches are functioning at 27 Border Trading points. 10 Border Trading points have no Banking Facilities. Out of these 10 centres, SBI and other banks have branches at 4 centres. Other centres are not considered viable for opening of new branches. The United Bank of India (UBI), the Convenor Bank for State Level Banker's Committee (SLBC) for Manipur and Tripura have reported that no place other than Moreh (Manipur) where UB is already having a branch, is suitable for opening new branch. A Sub-committee consisting of major banks functioning in Tripura have, after a through study of the existing branch network in the State, opened that the existing network of bank branches in the border areas of Tripura is adequate, and the scope for identification of new centres for opening of bank branches is not considered a viable preposition in the current economic and law & order situation in Tripura. With regard to Assam & Meghalaya, SBI's Regional Office in Assam is convening another meeting of SLBC shortly to decide whether any other bank would be interested to open its branches at the centres where SBI do not have their branches.

3. Disbursing of at least Rs. 50 crore per annum by North East Development Finance Corporation (NEDFi) North East Developmen Finance Corporation(NEDFi) has disbursed Rs. 50.46 crore in 2000-01 as against target of Rs. 50.00 crore.

4. Setting of an Export Development Fund (EDF) with an initial cost of Rs. 5 crore and work out the modalities for operation. Rs. 5 crore from the Non-lapsable Central Pool of Resources have been released as initial corpus of Export Development Scheme.Till 31-3-2001, a total of Rs. 24.90 lakhs had been sanctioned from the fund to various agencies for export promotion activities in the N.E. Region.

5. Development of four border township of Moreh(Manipur), Sokhawther (Mizoram), Dawki (Meghalaya) and Suterkhandi (Assam) in two years at a cost of Rs. 20 crore. Action Plan has been prepared to develop four border towns (Moreh in Manipur, Sokhawther in Mizoram, Dawki in Meghalaya and Suterkhandi in Assam) in a period of two years at a total cost of Rs. 36.32 crore. Department of Commerce have already sanctioned a number of development schemes in these four towns and other towns.

6. Setting up of an Empowered Committee to Process of the recommendations of Inter-Ministerial Task Force on border trade. An Empowered Committee under the Chairmanship of Commerce Secretary, has been constituted on 28-3-2000 to examine and process the recommendations of the Task Force. The first Meeting of the Committee was held on 14-6-2000, the second meeting was held on 7-7-2000 and the third meeting took place in Guwahati on 25-9-2000 where Chief Secretaries of NE States were also invited.

7. Upgradation of North Eastern Indira Gandhi Regional Institute of Health and Medical Sciences in Shillong at a cost of Rs. 422.60 crore. Government has approved the proposal to set up North Eastern Indira Gandhi Regional Institute of Health & Medical Sciences (NEIGRIHMS) at Shillong at a cost of Rs. 422.60 crore, on 7-2-2001. The work for establishment of the Institute has been started.

8. Setting up of a Central University in Mizoram. Passing of a Bill by Lok Sabha and development of infrastructure at a cost of Rs. 25 crore for the University. The Bill for establishment of University of Mizoram has been passed by the Parliament and assented to by the President on 25-4-2000. 978 acres of land has been identified, courses to be started have been identified.

9. Doubling of number of Industrial Training Institutes and the trainees for imparting training in new trades in the next 3 years with an outlay of Rs. 100 crore. Ministry of Labour had prepared action plan to increase capacity of ITIsand open new ITIsin the NE region. Expenditure Finance Committee has recommended the project in its Meeting held on 11-1-2001 after Cabinet's approval of the Scheme on 20-3-2001, the State Governments have been asked to implement the scheme.

10. Expansion of the list of items of expenditure incurred by Police eligible for reimbursement, which would include 50% of POL costs, village guards, village defence committees, and home guards. The Cabinet Committee on Security approved the proposalon 3-11-2000 to expand the list of items of expenditure incurred by Police eligible for reimbursement, which would include 50% of the POL costs, village guards, village defence committees and home guards. Rs. 111.69 crore has been released to all States under SRE in the North East during 2000-01.

11. Modernisation of Police Force Scheme and its extension to Sikkim and additional reimbursement of Rs. 40 crore per annumfor purchase of equipment for police modernisation. The proposal to extend the Modernisation of Police Force Scheme to Sikkim was approved in 2000-01 and Rs. 69.42 crore was released during 2000-01 to all States of the North East.

12. Sanction of three India Reserve Battalion(IRB) for Tripura, Mizoram and Manipur (estimated expenditure for 3 IRBs for three years will be Rs. 45 crore. Three India Reserve Batallions for Tripura (on 7.4.2000), Manipur (on 24.6.2000), and Mizoram (on 24.6.2000) have been sanctioned by Government of India. Rs. 3.75 crore have been released to Mizoram and Manipur State Governments for this purpose during 2000-01.

13. (a) Peace Bonus of Rs. 180 crore for Mizoram to tide over its financial problems.

(b) Provision of an outlay of Rs. 50 crore every year from Non-lapsable Pool of Resources for five years for specific infrastructure development projects of Mizoram. Assistance (Peace Bonus) of Rs. 182.45 crore was sanctioned, and given as grant to Mizoram (as against Rs. 180 crore for Mizoram announced by the Prime Minister) during 2000-01.

On the request of the State Government, Planning Commission sanctioned various projects in Mizoram and released an amount of Rs. 62.15 crore during 1999-2000 from the Non-lapsable Central Pool of Resources. During 2000-01, an amount of Rs. 52.16 crore was recommended for release from the Central Pool.

14. Fencing of remaining portion of Indo-Bangladesh Border, and construction of roads with a total outlay of Rs. 1,335 crore and work to start in April, 2000. On 23-5-2000, Government had approved the fencing of remaining portion of Indo-Bangladesh border and construction of roads at a cost of Rs. 1335 crore. The work on fencing and roads has been started and Rs. 87.50 crore was provided during 2000-01.

15. Streamlining of procedure for selection of projects under Central Non-lapsable Pool of Resources for North East and sanction of projects worth Rs. 500 crore and to build up infrastructure and take up economic development projects. In order to streamline the procedure for accruals to the Non-lapsable Central Pool of Resources , a budget " Head" has been opened in the Demand for Grants of most of the Ministries/Departments. This will facilitate in identifying the expenditure incurred by the respective Ministries/ Departments for projects/ schemes/ programmes in the North East and Sikkim.

During 2000-01, amount of Rs. 313.04 crores was released from the Central Pool for the various projects in the North East and Sikkim. During 2001-02 till date an amount of Rs. 86.16 crore has been released from the Pool.

16. Implementation of Loktak Downstream Hydro Power Project (90MW) in Manipur at a cost of Rs. 578 crore. Loktak Down Stream Hydro Power Project (90MW) in Manipur costing Rs. 578 crore has been sanctioned.

17. Implementation of Teesta V Hydro Power Project (510MW) Power project in Sikkim at a cost of Rs. 2,198.04 crore.

In January, 2000 Teesta V stage Hydro Power Project(510 MW) in Sikkim costing Rs. 2198.04 crore has been sanctioned. The project is expected to be completed in a period of seven years. Ministry of Power has reported that the project is proceeding as per schedule.

18. Initiation of action to ensure that work on Subansiri Lower Side (600 MW) Power project in Arunachal Pradesh commences by December, 2001.(Project cost is around Rs. 3,000 crore) Subansiri Lower Side Hydel Project(600 MW), Rs. 3000 crore project site transferred to NHPC.Investigation of project has been started and project sanctioned by December 2001. It has now been assessed that the revised capacity of the project will be 1200 MW and its cost at around Rs. 5000 crore.

19. Preparation and implementation of a scheme for rural electrification of 500 tribal villages in North East at a cost of around Rs. 30 crore. Cabinet approved a scheme on 23.3.2000 to electrify tribal villages and Harijan Basties at a concessional loan at interest rate of 7.5% per annum. Initially 165 tribal villages have been selected in NE States.An amount of Rs. 12.96 crore from the Non-lapsable

Central Pool of Resources has been released during 2000-01 for 165 tribal villages in the North East.

20. Additional assistance for implementation of on-going critical, sub-critical transmission system at a cost of Rs. 239.92 crore. To strengthen the transmission and sub-transmission systems in North East, Ministry of Power has identified critical transmission lines and sub-stations, in consultation with the States in North East and Central Electricity Authority.The estimated cost of these schemes is Rs. 239.92 crore. In a Meeting of the Committee (constituted to administer the Non-lapsable Central Pool of Resources) held on 5.9.2000. It was agreed to recommend the on going schemes in respect of sub-transmission and distribution works in the North East and Sikkim. An amount of Rs.52 crore from the Non-lapsable Central Pool of Resources for these works has been released during 2000-01.

21. Civil Aviation:

(a) Provision of Aviation Turbine Fuel to small aricrafts at international prices.

(b) Treatment of Aviation Turbine Fuel for small aircrafts as declared good so as to reduce the level of sales tax of 4%.

(c) No IATT for routes operated in the North Eastern States. The Cabinet approved the proposal in January, 2000. A mechanism has been worked out for providing ATF at International price after mutual consultations between Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Civil Aviation. In pursuance of the decision taken in the Meeting of Committee of Secretaries on 19-4-2000, Secretary, Ministry of Civil Aviation took a Meeting on 27-4-2000, with the State Governments, to obtain their consent to the proposal for declaring ATF for turbo-prop operation as "Declared Good" under the Central Sales Tax Act 1956.All routes within the NE States have been exempted from IATT with effect from 2-5-2000.

22. Sanction of 8 road/bridge projects under NEC with the total outlay of Rs. 258.24 crore. On 10-2-2000, eight road/bridge projects have been sanctioned under NEC plan with an outlay of Rs. 258.24 crore. Three more road projects costing Rs. 117.24 crore have been sanctioned. In 2000-01, Rs. 58.58 crore were released.

23. Provision of at least Rs. 100 crore for development of 12 new National Highways/ extension of existing highways covering a total length of 1,962 km. For upgradation of 12 new National Highways/extension of existing highways covering a total length of 1,962 Kms in the North East, Rs. 44.79 crore were spent by 31-3-2001.

24. Programme to establish computer information centre in all the 446 blocks in the seven North Eastern States and 40 blocks in Sikkim and completion of project in the next two years at a minimum cost of Rs. 100 crore. 30 Blocks have been provided Computer Information Centres(CICs) so far in North East at a cost of Rs. 15 crore during 2000-01Project report costing Rs. 220 crore to connect all the remaining 457 Blocks has been prepared by Ministry of Information Technology. All blocks will be provided with CICs in 2 years under two phases. Rs. 67 crore have been allocated by the Planning Commission for the year 2001-02 for the project.

25. Extension the excise concession under the new industrial policy to the Numaligarh Refinery in Assam. On 9-2-2000, the Ministry of Finance, Department of Revenue has issued notification extending full excise benefit to goods cleared from Numaligarh Refinery which will give annual benefits of Rs. 200 crore to the Refinery.

26. To reform the Brahamputra Board and to make its functioning more effective and implementation of flood management schemes. ACC has approved filling up the post of Chairman, Brahamputra Board.Chairman of the Board has taken over charge on 16-2-2001. Board is taking action on the following:-

(a) Preparation of Mater Plan.

(b) Investigation and preparation of DPR of identified drainage schemes

(c) Investigation and preparation of DPR for multi-purpose Dam Project

(d) Execution of drainage schemes

(e) Implementation of Pagladiya Project(Rs. 548 crore).

PIB clearance for Pagladiya Dam Project has been obtained subject to certain conditions.15,000 Bighas of land by Brahamputra Board has already been made available for rehabilitation and resettlement of Project Affected Persons.

27. Sanction of Technology Mission for Horticulture in the current financial year with a total outlay of Rs. 262.50 crore over the next 3 years. Ministry of Agriculture has prepared a project on Technology Mission on Horticulture for North East. Planning Commission as decided to treat the scheme as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for which full Planning Commission's approval would be required. The

full Planning Commission have approved the proposal. Cabinet has approved the project proposal on 7-2-2001.

28 Sanction of special programme for development of infrastructure and other facilities in the Bodo Autonomous Council (BAC) Areas with a total outlay of Rs. 30 crore per annum for three years. A number of proposals(projects/schemes) have been received from Bodo Autonom ous Council (BAC) as well as from the Government of Assam for support from the Non-lapsable Central Pool of Resources. DPRs received from the BAC/ Govt. of Assam were taken up for deliberation in the Meeting of the Committee (Constituted to administer the Non-lapsable Central Pool of Resources) on 5-09-2000.

Secretary, Planning Commission reviewed the progress on 23.1.2001 when concerned Union Ministries were also present. An amount of Rs. 4.23 crores has been released from the Non-lapsable Central Pool of Resources during 2000-01.